



Venice Neighborhood Council



PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
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Minutes of the February 3, 2020 Joint VNC Board & DFC Focus on Children Meeting

Voting Members (Present): Joe Murphy (VNC DFC CoChair), Joelle Dumas (VNC DFC CoChair, Director of Ecole Claire Fontaine), Paul Davis (VNC DFC CoChair, parent and architect), Mehrnoosh Mojallali (Architecture/Urban Design), John Palka (Pastor, Venice Lutheran Church); **(Absent):** Jasmine Carey (Worthy Beyond Purpose - Mindfulness Mentoring), Regan Kibbee (Co-moderator of Venice Moms), Mark Washington (LAUSD, Assistant Principal of Operations, Division of Adult & Career Education, Venice Skills Center Service Area).

Community Members: Zoila Darton, Sandy Bleifer (Artist).

Note: the minutes below in small blue bold print are a distillation of agenda item discussions and free-form comments from the meeting, and also feature points of discussion introduced by attendees in follow-up correspondence.

5:30 Call to Order - Approval of Outstanding Minutes and Agenda

Adopted unanimously.

5:31 Introductions, Announcements, Public Comment on items not on the agenda

Sandy Bleifer presented the plan of her group for the future use of the Venice Bridge Housing site after its 3-year use as a pathway to permanent housing for persons experiencing homelessness. The Venice DFC Focus on Children Committee will be interested to hear more about local efforts to ensure that this high-profile project satisfies the needs of the community.

5:50 Consideration and possible adoption of the following motion:

- **Revised version of motion seeking support for Venice Moms:**

Whereas, the DFC's Focus on Children Committee supports the efforts of Regan Kibbee, moderator of the Venice Moms email group (at Groups.io) and creator of the www.VeniceMoms.com website, to provide parents a forum to connect with one another in parenting children: It is therefore requested that the VNC Board adopt the following motion:

The VNC Board is supportive of the Venice Moms program, a not-for-profit group effort operating since 2002, which enables local families to share information, resources, parenting support, and opportunities to connect. It is thereby authorized to list the VNC as a supporter of its program and to use the VNC Logo in its online and offline publications and to distribute said publications at VNC events and meetings.

The amendment of the above motion and the motion as amended were both adopted unanimously.

6:15 Initiative Updates & Presentations, Discussion

6:15 ▪ Initiative Updates & Presentations

- **Paul Davis: Youth Internship Program**

Paul summarized recent YIP developments, namely that 5 to more than 7 local businesses and non-profits are seriously interested in hosting Venice High School senior class student interns. VHS Work Experience Coordinator David Silberman will be contacting us in the coming weeks (Feb-Mar) to report advances in securing faculty and students who will engage with the program. Our goal remains to place initial interns with hosts in the current semester.

- **Joelle Dumas: Valentine's Day Children's Parade – to inundate our streets with love**

Joelle provided details regarding the annual Valentine's Day Children's Parade.

- **Mehrnoosh Mojallali: Improved Library Access for Young Pedestrians**

Joe summarized a recent meeting he had with Mehrnoosh in which he indicated his sense that it would be more politically realistic to advocate the installation of flashing light crosswalks rather than bridges across North and South Venice Boulevards at locations east of the library entrance. His summary led to a discussion which resulted in a consensus to continue to pursue the bridge concept. Sandy mentioned a nearby pedestrian bridge crossing which Mehrnoosh will investigate. It was also recommended that she contact Linda Lucks of the VCHC and she will also do that.

6:55 ▪ Discussion Topics/Questions – building on Needs Assessment Survey

The remainder of the agenda was postponed until the March 2, 2020 meeting.

- ✚ **What do you think should be the priorities of this committee?**
- ✚ **Homelessness is a major and central issue in our community. Is there something constructive that this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?**
- ✚ **The Venice Neighborhood Council Bylaws enable young adults to become elected members of its Board of Officers and voting members/chairs of its various committees – and to create new committees – and to be otherwise involved in its various functions and government-related activities. To date, very little has been done to encourage such involvement. Is this something this committee is uniquely-positioned to do?**



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- ✚ **Worthy Beyond Purpose** is dedicated to providing children with mindfulness experiences.
Should we take time to explore in greater depth what this entails and whether this committee is uniquely-positioned to, in a constructive manner, enable broader community use of this model?

- **Contribution of Topics/Questions &/or Motions for next meeting agenda**

7:00

Adjourn. Next meeting will be 5:30pm Monday, March 2, 2020 at the Venice Library
